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FOR EUROPE

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CONFERENCE ON TRADE
AND DEVELOPMENT

Trade Facilitation

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TRADE FACILITATION NEWS

A. FORMALITIES AND PROCEDURES

ECE: Decisions on priorities*** At its forty-fifth session (resumed on 14 December 1980) the Commission recognized the following priority areas of activity: environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis; it decided to take the following practical measures in the trade facilitation area:

"

...

(a) The Commission regards trade facilitation as a priority area of its work, and attaches particular importance to the development of Electronic Data Interchange which will permit unprecedented increases in efficiency and financial savings in the conduct of international trade.

(b) The Commission confirms that the Working Party on the Facilitation of International Trade Procedures should remain the body responsible for developing and maintaining UN/EDIFACT standards, and invites it to accelerate its efforts further to develop and to support the universal application of the UN/EDIFACT standard.

(c) Recognizing the particular economic interests and concerns of countries as they achieve a market economy, inter alia that the facilitation of trade is one of the concerns for countries in transition as well as countries developing from an economic point of view, the Commission stresses the importance of addressing the special problems of these countries in this field and recommends to the Working Party that it seek constructive and co-operative means of doing so.

Deadline for contributions
Participants are requested to transmit their contributions to Trade Facilitation News No.74 by 15 May 1991

GE.91-30753/2276c

(d) The Commission invites the Executive Secretary to undertake co-operation and co-ordination with the other regional commissions of the United Nations, and with other international organizations active in the field of trade facilitation, and requests him to submit proposals for any interregional project to the Working Party and to the Commission for discussion and decision.

(e) The Commission recalls its decision J (45) and requests the Executive Secretary to provide, from within existing resources, the additional resources specified by the Working Party, as described in document TRADE/WP.4/R.659, for the appropriate application of UN/EDIFACT in all participating countries. Furthermore, the Commission notes with satisfaction the contribution by several Governments and enterprises of extrabudgetary resources for the development and maintenance of UN/EDIFACT, and encourages the continuation of such contributions in order to limit the impact of this activity on the resources of the ECE.
..."

Ref. 91-001; source: ECE

B. DOCUMENTATION, STANDARDS AND ALIGNED FORMS

ISO: Reprinting of ISO 9735 - EDIFACT*** At the request of WP.4, endorsed by ISO TC154, the ISO has reprinted on 1 November 1990 the International Standard ISO 9735 - Electronic data interchange for administration, commerce and transport (EDIFACT) - Application level syntax rules. The amended reprint has been prepared to correct two ambiguities in the original text. These concern segments UNG, S008 and UNH, S009. The convention for assigning message version number and message release number includes the last two digits of the year. In order to avoid compression of leading zeroes in these fields, which is a normal procedure in many computer programmes when the data type is specified to be numeric, and which would consequently distort the data, the data types for message version number and message release number have been changed from numeric(n) to alphanumeric (an). Additionally, experience has shown that the footnote which appeared on page 17 of the 1988 edition has been misunderstood and in order to provide clarification, the footnote has now been deleted and the status of the message release number (0054) and controlling agency (0051) has been changed from conditional to mandatory.

In order to allow time for users to change their systems, and to provide a specific date for implementation of the changes, the amended and reprinted first edition will become effective six months after the date of publication, i.e. 1 May 1991.

The following Note has been added to Section 1 Scope of the International Standard:

"NOTE - Users of this International Standard should note that the syntax rules specified herein are part of the United Nations Trade Data Interchange Directory (UNTDID). They may

be used in any application, but messages using these syntax rules may only be referred to as EDIFACT messages if they comply with other rules and directories in UNTDID and if they have been approved by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE)."

Ref. 91-002; source: ECE

ISO: New International Standard ISO 9804*** It relates to other International Standards in the set defined by the Basic Reference Model for Open Systems Interconnection (ISO 7498). The introduction to ISO/IEC 9804 says that the goal of OSI is to allow, with a minimum of technical agreement outside the interconnection standards, the interconnection of information processing systems: from different manufacturers; under different managements; of different levels of complexity; and of different technologies. This International Standard recognizes that application-processes may wish to communicate with each other for a wide variety of reasons. However, any communication requires certain services independent of the reasons for communication. The application-service-element defined in the International Standard provides such services.

Ref. 91-003; source: ISO Bulletin No.2, 1991.

ISO: International Standards in process and published*** During the period 28 April - 27 August 1990, twenty six International Standards relevant to trade facilitation were registered as committee drafts, sixty seven were circulated as draft International Standards for voting and fifty nine were published. The complete list of all International Standards approved by ISO relevant to trade facilitation is available from the ECE secretariat.

Ref. 91-004; source ISO Bulletins, Vol.21, Nos. 11-12, 1990; Vol.22, Nos. 1-2, 1991 and ECE.

C. DATA TECHNIQUES, TERMINOLOGY, CODES

United Kingdom: EDIFACT Messages to replace cheques** The five largest United Kingdom clearing banks (Barclays, Narwest, Midland, Lloyds and the Royal Bank of Scotland), which account for more than 80 per cent of the United Kingdom corporate banking market, are going to link their EDI systems and enable companies to make payments by sending EDIFACT messages directly from their computers to their banks. Initially, EDI will be used mainly to settle regular trade debts where the need for payment is known several days in advance. A more streamlined system capable of same-day settlement would be developed if the banks perceived a need. The pilot scheme will start in the third quarter of 1991 and will last for up to a year.

Ref. 91-005; source: Financial Times, 1991-01-09.

ECE: EDITRANS/DG** The UN/EDIFACT Reference Data Base System and Electronic-mail facilities developed originally in the framework of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) are now being extended to the new area of international

regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (EDITRANS/DG). EDITRANS/DG provides access to International Regulations and other provisions concerning the Transport of Dangerous Goods; Information and documentation issued in preparation of and as follow-up (reports and adopted texts) to meetings of competent ECE/ECOSOC bodies dealing with the transport of dangerous goods. By linking their PC with the UN International Computing Centre of Geneva, users can benefit from direct access to the above material, for the purpose of consulting it and/or unloading it on their PC and electronic mail, i.e. sending/receiving messages and documents to/from the ECE Transport Division. Extracts of data stored can be provided on floppy disk in WordPerfect and/or Ascii form. The stored information is also available in printed versions published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE).

Ref. 91-005; source: ECE.

Universal Standard Computer Code* A consortium has been formed to develop and promote a new universal digital code, known as Unicode, which could be used by computers to represent letters and characters in all the world's languages. Its 12 members include many top computer companies like IBM, Apple Computer, Microsoft, Sun Microsystems and Xerox. If the code becomes a worldwide standard, it would be easier for people in different countries to communicate by electronic mail. The code would also make it easier for software companies to develop programmes that can work in different languages. Unicode would represent letters and symbols by a sequence of 16 zeroes and ones, instead of eight in the most widespread system, the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII), allowing for 65,536 different combinations. That is enough to give each character used in all the languages of the world its own sequence.

Ref. 91-006; source: International Herald Tribune, 1991-02-21.

D. ORGANIZATIONS AND MEETINGS

ECE: WP.4 thirty-third session*** At its thirty-third session, held from 11 to 15 March 1991, the UN/ECE Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures (WP.4) has appointed the following Rapporteurs for 1991:

- UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs
  Ms N. Willenz (United States of America), Mr. H. Bates (Australia), Mr. E. Danikiewicz (Poland), Mr. K. Itoh (Japan), Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom).

- Rapporteurs on Legal Questions
  Mr B. Wheble (United Kingdom), Ms A. Troye (Commission of the European Communities, subject to approval by her authorities), Mr. J. Ritter (United States of America).

- Liaison Rapporteur to ISO
  Mr. G. Sundblad (Sweden)

- Liaison Rapporteur to CCITT
  Mr. S. Motard (France)

WP.4 gave Status 0 (Draft document) to 11 message types:

BAPLIE - Bayplan; occupied and empty locations
BAPLTE - Bayplan; total numbers
CALINF - Call Information
COARRI - Container Arrival
CODEPA - Container Departure
COOVLA - Container Overlanded
COPDEM - Container Pre-Departure with Guidelines
COPRAR - Container Pre-Arrival
COPRDP - Container Pre-Departure
COSHLA - Container Shortlanded
VESDEP - Vessel Departure

The following preliminary draft for message types were tabled for advance information:

CONDPV - Construction Direct Payment Valuation Message
CONPVA - Construction Payment Valuation Message
CONQVA - Construction Quantity Valuation
PAXLST - Passenger List.

Ref. 91-007; source: ECE.

UN/EDIFACT Developments in Asia and the Pacific** At a recent EDIFACT Promotion Conference organized by the Japan Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures, JASTPRO (Tokyo, February 26-March 1, 1991), participants from the Hong Kong Government, the Korea Trade Network (KTNet) based in Seoul, the Trade Development Board of Singapore, the Institute for Information Industry, based in Taipeh, the Department of Business Economics of Thailand and the UN/EDIFACT Rapporteurs for Australia/New Zealand and for Japan/Singapore reported on developments regarding the use of UN/EDIFACT in their region.

In Australia/New Zealand, following the appointment of a Rapporteur in March 1990 several key functional areas were identified and EDIFACT co-ordinators appointed for each area. These co-ordinators work with specific EDI user groups in the EDIFACT development process. The use of EDI is now well accepted in the region with the number of users estimated to be in excess of 5,000. A number of EDIFACT messages are under trial by several of these users. Some of the more significant areas of use include Government, Shipping, Port Authorities, and more recently both the retail and wholesale industries. The Australian Government has publicly released a policy statement in support of the EDIFACT Standard. A national EDI network has been established with Customs, Shipping Companies, Airlines, Freight Forwarders, Port Authorities and Terminal Operators engaged in trials covering import and export cargoes.

In Japan/Singapore, in January 1990, at an ESCAP Meeting of Trade Facilitation Committees, Singapore was assigned as a focal point for

disseminating information on EDIFACT to developing countries in the region. In September 1990, an EDIFACT Rapporteur nominated by Japan was appointed by WP.4. An EDIFACT Board has been formed jointly by Japan and Singapore, membership of which is open to any country wishing to participate in UN/EDIFACT development. At its first meeting (November 5-6, 1990), the Board agreed that initial efforts be focussed on two main areas, i.e. Awareness, Education and Promotion of EDIFACT; and setting up of working groups for contribution to EDIFACT developments. The JSEB secretariat is in the hands of JASTPRO, the Japan Association for Simplification of International Trade Procedures. EDI is widely used in Japan for intra-industry interchange, mostly based on proprietary standards, in the distribution, trade and transportation industry. Cross-industry or national-level EDI has recently begun to be implemented. Manufacturing and international trade have also started using EDI. A number of cross-industry network systems are in operation, e.g. SHIPNETS (Shipping Cargo Information Network System), S.C. Net (Shipper/Carrier Shipping Information Network System), S.F. Net (Shipper/Forwarder Shipping Operation Network System), EDI/EFT for the Banking sector. The Customs Service is currently evaluating UN/EDIFACT and plans to introduce EDI within three years.

In Singapore, an EDIFACT Committee was set up in August 1990 to co-ordinate EDI development. A TRADENET system, using EDIFACT, provides the infrastructure to support nationwide EDI applications. The first phase of the Tradenet System links the importers/exporters and freight forwarders to the Customs and Excise Department, Trade Development Board and Controlling agencies. In January 1991, more than 90 percent of the total import/export declarations (240.000 declarations/month) were submitted through Tradenet. 95 percent of the declarations are processed within 15 minutes. Other EDI applications in Singapore include a MEDINET Project in the healthcare sector, a STARNET project servicing air cargo agents and a number of applications in the manufacturing and retail sectors.

In Hong Kong, in 1989 a feasibility study for a community project was commissionned jointly by Tradelink, a group of business organizations, and the Hong Kong Government. As a result of the study, in March 1990 the Government announced the setting up of a joint initiative with Tradelink entitled SPEDI (Shared Project for EDI). The initial service of SPEDI will concentrate on Certificates of Origin, Container terminal operations (with a Shipping Order based on IFTMFR) and banking operations. Further EDIFACT messages are being developed. "Data entry offices" might be set up to assist small import/export companies to use EDI.

In the Republic of Korea, a global community system for trade is being set up. The Korea Trade Network (KTNet) was established in April 1990 by the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA) under the auspices of Ministry of Trade and Industry, to build a system covering the full range of trade procedures (Export and Import License, Letters of credit, Insurance, Customs clearance, Issuance of Bills of Lading). The first phase (trial) of the project will be completed in 1991. The second stage (diffusion) will take place in 1992-1993. The complete system will be operational by 1995. A

Korea EDIFACT Committee (KEC) has been set up in January 1991 to develop standard messages based on UN/EDIFACT Syntax rules and promote the use of EDI for facilitating trade procedures.

The Institute for Information Industry of Taipeh is dedicated to promote the effective utilization of computers and information technologies. The Trading and Customs Network (TACNET) System being developed is a community system connecting the Customs House, exporters/importers, carriers/freight forwarders, Customs brokers, warehouse/terminal station, banks, Board of Foreign Trade and other related government agencies to an EDI service center. The first phase of the project (Customs clearance Network for air cargo) will end up in December 1992. Phase II (Customs clearance network for shipping) will be carried out from January 1993 to December 1994. All message formats used in TACNET will follow the EDIFACT Standards.

In Thailand, Government units have started to study the possible introduction of EDI, including the Communications Authority of Taiwan, the Department of Customs and the Ministry of Finance.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade of the People's Republic of China has recently expressed its interest for information on UN/EDIFACT. The EDIFACT Rapporteur for Japan/Singapore will participate in a Conference on EDI to be held in Beijing in May 1991.

Ref. 91-008; source: ECE.

Singapore: Workshop on Computerization and EDI in Trade and Customs*** The Workshop was organized jointly by UNCTAD and ESCAP on 3-8 December 1990. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the Customs Co-operation Council provided technical inputs to it. The meeting was attended by representatives from the field of Trade and Customs administrations from thirty ESCAP Member countries. The Workshop aimed at informing participants about new methods for handling trade data. The following topics were presented:

- International data standards and UN/EDIFACT;
- Organization and Management of Automated Data Processing (ADP) in Customs;
- System life cycle and applications;
- Singapore Tradenet and Portnet Systems which were presented, including demonstrations and site visits. The objectives of these systems are to reduce cost and turnaround time for the processing of trade documents and port and container handling;
- Singapore Trade Development Board and the "Global Link" system, an online information service for speedy and efficient trade information dissemination to the business community. "Global Link" is a business tool for international Traders;

- ASYCUDA project for the Asian and Pacific region, designed and developed by UNCTAD for the benefit of developing countries was presented, including a demonstration of the system.

Ref. 91-009; source: ECE.

Cable & Wireless undertakes Polish telecoms venture* This company announced its first foray into the east European telecommunications market with the signature of a memorandum of understanding with the Polish PTT Ministry to set up a modern digital telecommunications network for the city of Gdansk. The network would connect 33,000 subscribers within three to four years and at least 450,000 business and residential customers within seven to 10 years involving an investment of over $384m.

Ref. 91-010; source: Financial Times, 1990-12-10.

Calendar of meetings

91-04-10--12	ISO/IEC	JTC1/SC27 "Information technology/Security techniques" (Tokyo, Japan)
91-04-22--26	ISO/IEC	JTC/SC18 "Information technology/Text and office systems" (Seoul, Republic of Corea)
+91-04-23--25	ISO	TC68/SC2 "Banking and related financial services/Operations and procedures" (Tokyo, Japan)
+91-05-27--31	ISO	TC46 "Information and documentation" plenary sessins and sub-committees (Copenhagen, Denmark)
+91-06-04--05	ISO/OEC	JTC1/SC21 "Information technology/Information retrieval, transfer and management for open systems interconnections (OSI)" (Arles, France)
+91-06-10--14	ISO/IEC	JTC1/SC7 "Information technology/Software development and system documentation" (Stockholm, Sweden)
+91-07-08--19	ISO/IEC	JTC1/SC6 "Information technology/Telecommunications and information exchange between systems" (Berlin, Germany)
+91-10-07--11	ISO	General Assembly (Madrid, Spain)
91-09-16--20	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-fourth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-fourth sessions (Geneva, Switzerland)
92-03-17--20	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-fifth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-fifth sessions, (Geneva, Switzerland)

92-09-22 25	ECE	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, thirty-sixth session, and its two Meetings of Experts, forty-sixth sessions, (Geneva, Switzerland)

Source to be consulted if more detailed information is desired:

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Asterisks indicate

***	Work accomplished, decisions, measures implemented, conventions, recommendations, standards, etc., adopted.
**	Report on work under way, proposals.
*	Work planned, projects under study.

Reference

Ref. 89-000 = Item identifier for communications to the secretariat

Source = Abbreviated source reference explained in the Bulletin.

1/ As communicated by the secretariat of the organizations.
+/ New item, or addition to, or change in previous information.

Annex

UN/EDIFACT MESSAGE TYPES: WP.4 STATUS SUMMARY - MARCH 1991

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS*
INVOIC -	Commercial Invoice	TRADE/WP.4/R.527 TRADE/WP.4/R.527/Rev.1	2
ORDERS -	Purchase Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.586 TRADE/WP.4/R.586/Corr.1	2
CONTRL -	Acknowledgement/Rejection Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.589	1
CREADV -	Credit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.701	1
CREEXT -	Extended Credit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.692	1
CUSDEC -	Customs Declaration	TRADE/WP.4/R.688	1
CUSRES -	Customs Response	TRADE/WP.4/R.689	1
DEBADV -	Debit Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.693	1
IFTMFR -	International Forwarding and Transport Message Framework	TRADE/WP.4/R.690	1
IFTMAN -	Arrival notice	TRADE/WP.4/R.665/Rev.1	1
IFTMBC -	Booking Confirmation	TRADE/WP.4/R.662/Rev.1	1
IFTMBF -	Booking Firm	TRADE/WP.4/R.661/Rev.1	1
IFTMBP -	Booking provisional	TRADE/WP.4/R.660/Rev.1	1
IFTMCS -	Instruction Control status	TRADE/WP.4/R.664/Rev.1	1
IFTMIN -	Instruction	TRADE/WP.4/R.663/Rev.1	1
PAYEXT -	Extended Payment Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.694	1
PAYORD -	Payment Order	TRADE/WP.4/R.695	1
QALITY -	Quality Data Message	TRADE/WP.4/R.583 TRADE/WP.4/R.583/Corr.1	1
REMADV -	Remittance Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.714	1
BAPLIE -	Bayplan; occupied and empty locations	TRADE/WP.4/R.676**	0
BAPLTE -	Bayplan; total numbers	TRADE/WP.4/R.677**	0
CALINF -	Call Information	TRADE/WP.4/R.678**	0
COARRI -	Container Arrival	TRADE/WP.4/R.680**	0
CODEPA -	Container Departure	TRADE/WP.4/R.685**	0
COOVLA -	Container Overlanded	TRADE/WP.4/R.681**	0
COPDEM -	Container Pre-Departure with Guidelines	TRADE/WP.4/R.684**	0
COPRAR -	Container Pre-Arrival	TRADE/WP.4/R.679**	0
COPRDP -	Container Pre-Departure	TRADE/WP.4/R.683**	0
COSHLA -	Container Shortlanded	TRADE/WP.4/R.682**	0
CURRAC -	Current Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.594 TRADE/WP.4/R.594/Corr.1	0
CUSCAR -	Customs Cargo Report	TRADE/WP.4/R.716	0
CUSREP -	Customs Conveyance Report	TRADE/WP.4/R.717	0

* Status: 2 = UNSM
1 = Draft for formal trial
0 = Draft document

** Document will be issued for the 34th WP.4 session (September 1991)

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS*
DELFOR -	Delivery Schedule	TRADE/WP.4/R.712	0
DELJIT -	Just-In-Time Delivery	TRADE/WP.4/R.618	0
DESADV -	Despatch Advice	TRADE/WP.4/R.713	0
DOCAPP -	Documentary Credit Application	TRADE/WP.4/R.674	0
EDIMAR -	(International Maritime organization IMO). Five Messages: - General Declaration - Ship's Store Declaration - Crew's Effects Declaration - Crew List - Passenger List	TRADE/WP.4/R.572	0
GENRAL -	General Message	-	0
IFCSUM -	International Forwarding and Consolidation Summary	TRADE/WP.4/R.687	0
ORDCHG -	Purchase Order Change Request	TRADE/WP.4/R.582	0
ORDRSP -	Purchase Order Response	TRADE/WP.4/R.581	0
PARTIN -	Party Information	TRADE/WP.4/R.619	0
PAYMUL -	Multiple payment order	TRADE/WP.4/R.715	0
PRICAT -	Price/Sales Catalogue	TRADE/WP.4/R.620	0
QUOTES -	Quote	TRADE/WP.4/R.623	0
REINAC -	Reinsurance Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.595 TRADE/WP.4/R.595/Corr.1	0
REQOTE -	Request for Quote	TRADE/WP.4/R.622	0
STATAC -	Statement of Account	TRADE/WP.4/R.624	0
VESDEP -	Vessel Departure	TRADE/WP.4/R.682**	0
	UNSM CANDIDATES UNDER DEVELOPMENT		
CEDEX -	Freight Container Messages. Nine Messages:		
	- On-Hire Interchange	-	-
	- Off-Hire Interchange	-	-
	- Interchange	-	-
	- Damage Description	-	-
	- Work Estimate	-	-
	- Third Party Claim	-	-
	- Work Tender Request	-	-
	- Work Order	-	-
	- Work Cost Estimate	-	-
CHGSPE -	Change to Product Specification	-	-
COFORM -	Construction Pricing Formula	-	-
CONDPV -	Construction direct payment valuation	TRADE/WP.4/R.736**	-
CONPVA -	Construction payment valuation	TRADE/WP.4/R.737**	-
CONQVA -	Construction qualtity valuation	TRADE/WP.4/R.738**	-
COPLAN -	Construction Planning	-	-
CORESP -	Construction Responsibility	-	-
COVALU -	Construction Value	-	-
DIRDEF -	EDIFACT Directory Definition	-	-
DIRMNT -	Directory Maintenance	-	-
DIRSET -	Directory Set	-	-
DISRPT -	Distribution Report	-	
INVINQ -	Inventory Inquiry/Advice	-	-
INVRPT -	Inventory Report	-	-

MESSAGES		DOCUMENT SYMBOL	STATUS*
NONCON -	Non-Conformance	-	-
ORDINQ -	Order Status Inquiry	-	-
ORDREP -	Order Status Report	-	-
ORDSTA -	Order Status	-	-
PAXLST -	Passenger list message	TRADE/WP.4/R.739**	-
PAYREM -	Overdue Payment Reminder	-	-
PRDSPE -	Product Specification	-	-
PROTRA -	Product Transfer and Resale	-	-
RECADV -	Receiving Advice	-	-
REGDAT -	Regulatory Data	-	-
REPRIN -	Request for Product Information	-	-
RESSPE -	Response to Specification	-	-
STATUS -	Consignment Status Report	-	-
TAXCON -	Tax Control	-	-
TRASTA -	Trade Statistical Information	-	-
WARDAT -	Warranty Data	-	-